

being thus rare objects, as e. g., on the table-lands of the Andes. One calabash which the Mataco-Vejos¹⁾ have mended was obtained by them originally from the Chané. It is beautifully ornamented and thus, probably, appeared to them more valuable than their own calabashes. It was therefore considered to be worth the trouble of mending.

Feather-work.

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There is one small work²⁾ on different kinds of feather-technique in S. America. It is not, however, full enough to give information as to the distribution of different forms of this technique. Nor am I in possession of sufficient data of comparison to be able to draw a map showing the distribution of the different methods of binding feathers.

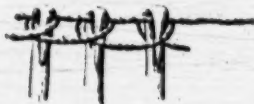


Fig. 69. Illustration showing how the feathers are bound in a footband.

From fig. 69 we see how feathers are bound by the Ashluslay and Choroti into footbands (ankle-ornaments), girdles and the like. It is usual, also, to bind ostrich feathers quite simply around a string. The footbands are partly made in this wise.

In the Chaco it is not uncommon to sew feathers on to cloth. Among the Indians I have visited elsewhere in S. America, I am not aware of this custom. In ancient Peru feathers were often sewn on to mantles, etc.

A peculiar custom among the Indians of the Chaco — the Choroti and others — is that of cutting notches out of the feathers in their brow-bands exactly like some of the North American Indians. In S. America I only know the custom from

¹⁾ R. M. (M. 1048).

²⁾ Mead (2).

2: Nordenskiöld E-5 (1908-1909) 1919

SK6 Choroti SK6

Ashluslay SK5

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other Chaco tribes and from Guiana¹). As regards the Chaco this custom is mentioned by SÁNCHEZ LABRADOR from the Mbayá²).

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Leather-making.

The Choroti and Ashluslay do not understand the art of tanning. They show skill, however, in making leather soft by scraping. I did not observe any point of anthropogeographical interest in their method of preparing leather.

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¹) GORJE (1), Pl. 3. 1. 2. Ojuna.

²) Vol. 1, p. 211.